the problem is not so very acute in your taluk. You must take a comprehensive view of the matter and not each taluk by itself. The works must be taken up in the order of urgency. It is not possible to repair all the tanks in one year or to deal with all taluks at once.

Member.—There are only four pakuthies in our taluk requiring relief. The ryots are poor. An investigation may be made. A portion of the sum allotted to Neyyattinkara and Vilavankod may be used for us.

Dewan's reply.—No sum has yet been set apart.

55. Irrigation system in the Vilavankod taluk, with special reference to the desirability of constructing an anicut at Vannanpara (across the Kodayar) in Kaliyal pakuthi for irrigating lands along the right bank of the Kuzhittura river.

Mr. T. C. Kesava Pillai (Member, Vilavankod Taluk) submitted that, in point of irrigational facilities, his was one of the most backward taluks in the State, and that the people of the taluk had been agitating about the matter for a very long time and had been urging it at successive sessions of the Assembly. He then referred to the Irrigation Conference recently held at Kuzhittura under the presidency of the Dewan and to the terms of the resolutions passed at the Conference in regard to the share of Government and of the people in the matter of meeting the cost of restoration and of maintenance of the tanks in the taluk, and submitted that they should be revised. It was pointed out at the Conference that, according to the custom of the taluk, the obligation to carry out the repairs and maintenance of minor tanks lay entirely upon the people, but that the Government were prepared to show a special concession and contribute $\frac{1}{4}$ of the cost, the remaining $\frac{3}{4}$ being borne by the ryots interested. But the Member observed that a reference to G. O. No. 6993A/ P. W., dated the 6th September 1908 would show that, so far as Shencottah and Vilavankod taluks were concerned, the custom was for recovering from the ryots concerned only a portion of the cost of constructing and repairing irrigation works. The Member then referred to the provisions of G. O. No. 2933/L. R., dated the 18th March 1911 which stated that "though the Government are entitled under the law to levy from the ryots the entire cost of the construction, restoration and repair of minor irrigation works the Government are pleased to direct that it will be sufficient to levy half the cost in future in regard to such works as are carried out in the State". The Member contended that, besides the 25 per cent which the Government had already promised to contribute, they should also be given the concession of 50 per cent provided in the above G. O., or 75 per cent on the whole, the remaining 25 per cent alone being recovered from the people. In the light of these observations the Member prayed for a review of the terms adopted at the Conference, as they agreed to them under a misapprehension of the real situation and facts. He also requested that the number of instalments for the recovery of the people's contribution should be increased to 20 instead of being fixed at 5 or 6 as stated in the opening Address.

He next urged the desirability of constructing a dam at Vannanpara. In spite of the fact that the scheme was condemned by experts, he still held that the scheme was worthy of investigation, and prayed for an expert officer being deputed for the purpose.

Dewan's reply.—The Chief Engineer is anxious to find out what exactly your idea is regarding the Vannanpara scheme. Please see him with full details. After interviewing you that officer will say if any further investigation could be profitably conducted. In regard to the revision of the terms agreed to at the recent Conferrence at Kuzhittura, I would refer you to my reply to the previous speaker.

56. Certain proposals regarding the conversion of dry lands into wet under the Kodayar Project.

Mr. M. Bhutalingam Pillai (Member, Nominated) welcomed the appointment of the Special Officer and represented that the following obstacles stood in the way of increasing the converted area under the Kodayar project, *viz.*,

(i) The discontinuance of the practice whereby water cess for the first five years after the conversion was remitted. This remission had been recommended by the late,

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